REMARKS

Claims 1-18 have been allowed in the present application. In this RCE, Applicant is filing an Information Disclosure Statement. In addition, Applicant has amended the claims. In particular, by virtue of this amendment, claims 3, 6, 11, and 17 have been cancelled, and claims 1-2, 4, 7-8, 10, 12-14, 16 and 18 have been amended and new claims 19-21 have been added.

Accordingly claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-10, 12-16, and 18-21 are currently under consideration. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented. No new matter has been added.

If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 245402004500. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: March 17, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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